

**REMARKS**

Applicant respectfully requests entry of this amendment, and an early examination and action on the merits.

Applicant submits this amendment under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.78(a)(5),(6) to amend the specification to include a reference to U.S. Provisional Application Nos. 60/220,784 and 60/251,007, to which this application claims benefit, as indicated on the unexecuted Declaration filed concurrently with the application and on the executed Declaration filed December 31, 2001. Because this Preliminary Amendment is being filed more than four months after the filing date of the application and more than sixteen months from the filing date of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/220,784, applicant has submitted herewith a Petition to Accept an Unintentionally Delayed Claim under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) for benefit of the above-mentioned provisional applications.

Inquiries with respect to this application can be directed to the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

3 January 2002  
Date

  
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SHOULD ADDITIONAL FEES BE NECESSARY IN CONNECTION WITH THE FILING OF THIS PAPER, OR IF A PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME IS REQUIRED FOR TIMELY ACCEPTANCE OF SAME, THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 19-0741 FOR ANY SUCH FEES; AND APPLICANT(S) HEREBY PETITION FOR ANY NEEDED EXTENSION OF TIME.